

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1 – 20 were originally pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, 8, 11, 16 and 18 have been amended. Claims 5, 7, 15 and 17 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 – 4, 10 – 14 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Allen et al. RE 37,466 patent. In addition, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 11, 12, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Tokunaga et al. ‘544 patent. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. However, the Examiner also indicated that claims 7 – 9 and 17 – 19 were merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended with the Examiner’s comments in mind. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations formerly set forth in claims 5 and 7. Claims 5 and 7 have been cancelled. Similarly, claim 11 has been amended to include the limitations formerly set forth in claims 17 and 19. Claims 17 and 19 have been amended.

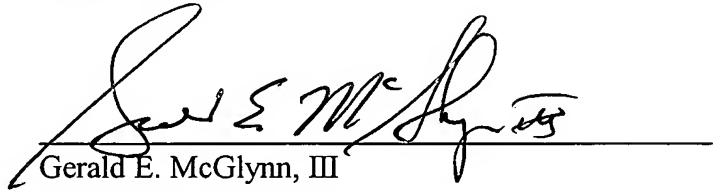
Miscellaneous Amendments to the Specification

Paragraph [0024] on page 7 of the specification has been amended to correct the reference numeral 66 which should be used in connection with “triangular ribs”. Attorney for applicants apologizes for this typographical error.

Conclusion

In view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, clearly distinguish over the prior art and are therefore allowable. Accordingly, applicants respectfully solicit the allowance of the claims pending in this.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. McGlynn, III", is written over a horizontal line.

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Date: August 22, 2006
Attorney Docket No.: 04746 (3883.00043)